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Enron Corp. plans to ban cigarette smoking in its downtown Houston offices effective Jan. 1, 1990, Enron spokesman Randy Blauvelt said Tuesday.

Companies with smoke-free or nearly smoke-free work places include Pacific Northwest Bell, Boeing, Campbell Soup Co., Federal Express and Ralston Purina, the Smoking Policy Institute has previously reported.

Enron's future smoking ban has prompted no complaints so far from the 500 smokers among the company's 3,000 Houston employees, Blauvelt said. Enron plans to extend the ban to its other 4,000 employees across the country after it arranges smoking cessation classes in those field offices.

About 54 percent of U.S. companies have some form of restrictions on smoking, but few have a complete ban like Enron's, said Joann Schelenbach, spokeswoman for the American Cancer Society.

Enron operates 38,000 miles of natural gas pipeline in the United States.

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